
**ORDINARY MEETING OF GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
TUESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2025 COMMENCING AT 7:00 PM**

PRESENT

The Mayor, Doug Curran in the Chair; Councillors, Shari Blumer, Mark Dal Bon, Jenny Ellis, Tony O'Grady, Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni

STAFF

General Manager, Brett Stonestreet, Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson, Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King, Acting Director Business, Cultural, Financial Services, Max Turner, Acting Director Sustainable Development, Peter Badenhorst and Minute Taker, Joanne Bollen

MEDIA

Cai Holroyd, The Area News

1 COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Meeting opened with Councillor Christine Stead reading the Opening Affirmation and the Acknowledgement of Country.

2 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE OR ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK BY COUNCILLORS

25/035

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Jenny Ellis that apologies be received from Councillors Scott Groat and Anne Napoli and Director Sustainable Development, Joe Rizzo and a leave of absence granted.

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 0.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

25/036

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in Griffith City Council Chambers on 11 February 2025, having first been circulated amongst all members of Council, be confirmed.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 0.

4 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

Councillors making a pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.

Councillor Mark Dal Bon

CL02 DA 167/2024 - Multi-Dwelling Development - Construction of Two New Two-Storey Dwellings and Retention of the Existing Dwelling

Reason – My brother and sister in law are the owners of the property.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors making a significant non-pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.

General manager, Brett Stonestreet

CC02 Minutes of the General Manager Recruitment Committee 13 February 2025

Reason – This Committee relates to the recruitment to the position I currently hold. I will not be an applicant for the position.

Councillor Tony O'Grady

CL02 DA 167/2024 - Multi-Dwelling Development - Construction of Two New Two-Storey Dwellings and Retention of the Existing Dwelling

Reason – I know one of the objectors and have volunteered with her at a football club.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

8 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

CL01 ADOPTION OF THE 2023/24 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & AUDITOR'S REPORTS

25/037

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that the meeting suspend standing orders to allow Nicky Rajani from the Audit Office to address Council.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 0.

25/038

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that the meeting resume standing orders.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 0.

25/039

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Laurie Testoni that Council adopt the 2023/24 Annual Financial Reports and associated Auditor's Reports as presented.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady

Against

Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 0.

Councillor Mark Dal Bon left the meeting having declared a Pecuniary Conflict of Interest, the time being 7:16pm.

Council Tony O'Grady left the meeting having declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest, the time being 7:16pm.

CL02 DA 167/2024 - MULTI-DWELLING DEVELOPMENT - CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW TWO-STOREY DWELLINGS AND RETENTION OF THE EXISTING DWELLING

25/040

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Shari Blumer that the meeting suspend standing orders to allow Ian Schafer, Kathy Gee and Linden Favero to address Council.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 5 votes to 0.

25/041

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni that the meeting resume standing orders.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 5 votes to 0.

25/042

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Jenny Ellis that:

- (a) Griffith City Council as the consent authority pursuant to section 4.16 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979, approve Development Application 167/2024 over 23 School Street Hanwood (Lot 1503 DP 751709) and adjacent Crown Reserve 7301 DP 1152958 (for access and drainage), for a multi-dwelling development including the construction of two new two storey dwellings, subject to conditions.
- (b) Development Application 167/2024 be delegated to the Planning & Environment Manager for the preparation and issue of the Notice of Determination.

In accordance with the Local Government Action (section 375A - Recording of voting on planning matters) Council must record the Councillor's vote in relation to the matter.

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against
Councillor Christine Stead

The division was declared PASSED by 4 votes to 1.

Councillors Mark Dal Bon and Tony O'Grady returned to the meeting, the time being 7:35pm.

CL03 REVIEW OF SOLAR ENERGY FARMS AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS) POLICY

25/043

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Laurie Testoni that Council note this report and not amend the Solar Energy Farms and Battery Energy Storage Systems Policy.

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 0.

CL04 SECOND QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT 2024/25 - BUDGET REVIEW AND OPERATIONAL PLAN INCORPORATING THE DECEMBER DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

25/044

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni that:

- (a) Council note the variations to the 2024/25 original budget for the quarter ended 31 December 2024 as presented in this report.
- (b) The Financial Review and any additional approved variations for the quarter ended 31 December 2024 be adopted.
- (c) Council adopt the 31 December 2024 Operational Plan Review advising the extent to which the Operational Plan Actions (Performance Indicators) have been achieved.
- (d) Council endorse minor amendments to the Organisational Structure as per this report.

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 0.

CL05 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (ALGWA) NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025 - GRIFFITH 1-3 MAY 2025

25/045

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Christine Stead that:

- (a) Council be represented at the 2025 ALGWA Conference to be held in Griffith 1-3 May 2025.
- (b) The Mayor (or delegate), Councillors that wish to attend the and General Manager (or delegate) attend the Conference.
- (c) Councillor expenses to attend the Conference be paid by Council in accordance with the Councillor Expenses & Facilities Policy.

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against
Councillor Mark Dal Bon

The division was declared PASSED by 6 votes to 1.

CL06 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW 2025 DESTINATION AND VISITOR ECONOMY CONFERENCE

Councillors Christine Stead and Jenny Ellis moved following the MOTION that:

- (a) Council be represented at the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) 2025 Destination and Visitor Economy Conference in Kingscliff, NSW from 26 May to 28 May 2025 by Councillor Christine Stead and the General Manager (or his delegate).
- (b) Expenses to attend the Local Government NSW 2025 Destination and Visitor Economy Conference be paid by Council in accordance with the Councillor Expenses & Facilities Policy.

Councillor Mark Dal Bon moved the following MOTION that the report LAY ON THE TABLE.

The MOTION was PUT and LOST.

For
Councillor Mark Dal Bon

Against
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

The division was declared LOST by 1 votes to 6.

25/046

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Jenny Ellis that:

- (a) Council be represented at the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) 2025 Destination and Visitor Economy Conference in Kingscliff, NSW from 26 May to 28 May 2025 by Councillor Christine Stead and the General Manager (or his delegate).

- (b) Expenses to attend the Local Government NSW 2025 Destination and Visitor Economy Conference be paid by Council in accordance with the Councillor Expenses & Facilities Policy.

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against
Councillor Mark Dal Bon

The division was declared PASSED by 6 votes to 1.

CL07 SUPPORT FOR ANNUAL SIKH GAMES - 2025 SHAHEEDI TOURNAMENT

Councillor Christine Stead moved the following MOTION that the report LAY ON THE TABLE.

The MOTION was PUT and LOST.

For
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead

Against
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Laurie Testoni

The division was declared LOST by 3 votes to 4.

25/047

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Laurie Testoni that:

Council provides the following support to the 27th Shaheedi Tournament:

- (a) \$10,000 cash contribution;
- (b) Cost of preparation of a Traffic Management Plan;
- (c) Installation of flags on Jondaryan Ave and Mackay Ave;
- (d) Multiple rubbish bins at event sites;
- (e) VMS Boards on Kidman Way, south of Rae Road; and
- (f) Cost of hire of Ted Scobie Oval Collina (No associated fee in current Revenue Policy, Council Plant and Plant Operator is provided by Council for event setup and pack down).
- (g) Promotion of the event in Council communications.

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against
Councillor Christine Stead

The division was declared PASSED by 6 votes to 1.

9 INFORMATION REPORTS

CL08 INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 JANUARY 2025

25/048

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Laurie Testoni and Christine Stead that the report be noted by Council.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 0.

10 ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2024

25/049

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Laurie Testoni and Christine Stead that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Floodplain Management Committee meeting held on 5 December 2024 be adopted.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 0.

MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2025

25/050

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tony O'Grady and Laurie Testoni that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting held on 11 February 2025 be adopted.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 0.

11 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

12 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – OTHER MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR SHARI BLUMER

Councillors Shari Blumer and Jenny Ellis moved following the MOTION that:

- (a) Council agrees to the creation of an overarching ‘Strategic Water’ policy.
- (b) That the draft policy document be reported to Council for consideration during April 2025.
- (c) Council make a submission to the Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development inquiry into the Impacts of the Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Act 2023 on NSW regional communities. The closing date for submissions is 14 April 2025.

Councillor Mark Dal Bon moved the following MOTION that the report LAY ON THE TABLE.

The MOTION was PUT and LOST.

For
Councillor Mark Dal Bon

Against
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O’Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

The division was declared LOST by 1 votes to 6.

25/051

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Jenny Ellis that:

- (a) Council agrees to the creation of an overarching ‘Strategic Water’ policy.
- (b) The draft policy document be reported to Council for consideration during April 2025.
- (c) Council make a submission to the Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development inquiry into the Impacts of the Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Act 2023 on NSW regional communities. The closing date for submissions is 14 April 2025.

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O’Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against
Councillor Mark Dal Bon

The division was declared PASSED by 6 votes to 1.

13 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

25/052

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni that the report be noted.

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against
Councillor Mark Dal Bon

The division was declared PASSED by 6 votes to 1.

14 MATTERS TO BE DEALT WITH BY CLOSED COUNCIL

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in Section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

Set out below is Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993 in relation to matters which can be dealt with in the closed part of a meeting.

The matters and information are the following:

- (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors)**
- (b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer**
- (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business**
- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:**
 - (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or**
 - (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council, or**
 - (iii) reveal a trade secret**
- (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law**
- (f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property**
- (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the grounds of legal professional privilege**
- (h) information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on Community land.**
- (i) alleged contraventions of any code of conduct requirements applicable under section 440 of the Local Government Act 1993.**

25/053

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Tony O'Grady that:

- (a) Council resolve to go into closed Council to consider business identified.
- (b) Pursuant to section 10A(1)-(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provision of section [10A(2)] as outlined above.
- (c) The correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by section 11(2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 0.

Council resolved that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items listed below, and that discussion of the report in open Council would be contrary to the public interest.

CCMM01 SIGNIFICANT SERVICE - CIVIC RECOGNITION

Reason: Personnel Matters 10A(2)(a)

**CC02 MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MANAGER RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2025**

Reason: Commercial Advantage 10A(2)(d)

Council closed its meeting at 8:18pm.

The public and media left the Chamber.

Livestream was disconnected.

General Manager Brett Stonestreet left the meeting having declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest for CC02, the time being 8:23pm.

Staff remaining in the Chamber were asked to leave for the discussion on CC02, the time being 8:23pm

General Manager Brett Stonestreet and staff returned to the meeting, the time being 8:30pm.

REVERSION TO OPEN COUNCIL

25/054

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Jenny Ellis that Open Council be resumed.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis

Against

Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 0.

Open Council resumed at 8:33pm.

Livestream was reconnected.

Upon resuming open Council the General Manager reported that the following resolutions had been made in Closed Council:

MATTERS DEALT WITH IN CLOSED COUNCIL

CCMM01 SIGNIFICANT SERVICE - CIVIC RECOGNITION

25/055

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni that:

- (a) The report be raised from the table.
- (b) Council approve for civic recognition as a Freeman of the City of Griffith, the person nominated in this report.
- (c) The Mayor make contact with the recipient, seeking their concurrence to the recognition, and make appropriate arrangements for a civic reception or other event.

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 0.

CC02 MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MANAGER RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2025

25/056

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Christine Stead that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the General Manager Recruitment Committee meeting held on 13 February 2025 be adopted.

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Mark Dal Bon
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Tony O'Grady
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 0.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8:35pm.

Confirmed:

CHAIRPERSON